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## Minutes

### City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee

### September 11, 2007

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Minutes of the City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 4:00 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**Committee Member Present:**

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair  
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

**City Staff Present:**

Debbie Bair, Sr. Mgmt. Asst.  
John Barton, Battalion Chief  
Tom Canasi, Comm Svcs Mgr.  
Angel Carbajal, Asst. Police Chief  
Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Cliff Jones, Fire Chief  
Jayson Matthews, TCC Mgmt Asst  
Bob Pohlit, Park Plng & Design  
Larry Randall, Sr. Fire Inspector  
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr  
Tom Ryff, Police Chief  
Marc Scott, Fire Marshal  
Judy Tapscott, Deputy Comm Svcs. Mgr.  
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Prgm Spec  
Mary Wade, Asst. City Attorney  
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Dir  
John Valenzuela, EMS Transportation Coordinator

**Guests Present:**

Kathleen Clark, Scudder Park NA Chair  
Anne Bielecki, Dir of Community Affairs  
Jeff Englemann, J2 Engineering  
Aaron Moss, Southwest Ambulance  
Joe Pospicil, NAC member  
Stephanie Salazar, ASU

***Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.***

**Agenda Item 1 – Breathing Air Systems for High Rise Buildings**

Fire Chief Cliff Jones thanked Stephanie Salazar for spreading the word about fire prevention and public safety education to off-campus ASU students with a full-page fire safety message for students and parents in the official off-campus housing guide.

Councilmember Arredondo added that Ms. Salazar will be moved off campus for easier access for staff. An open house will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> at her new office at Rural and Terrace. He asked her to bring copies of the off-campus housing guide to the next meeting.

Chief Jones summarized that this item is a recommendation for a change in the Fire Code. The essence of this proposed change is to provide breathing air for firefighters in high rise buildings. This relatively new technology would involve a standpipe system to provide air.

Fire Marshal Marc Scott highlighted the proposed amendment to the 2003 International Fire Code for a firefighter breathing air system.

- This system is a self-contained, high-pressure breathing air replacement system consisting of a Fire Department air connection panel, remote air fill panel and high pressure interconnected piping permanently installed within the structure. This would allow fire personnel to replenish empty self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders within close proximity to the incident.
- The system would reduce travel distance, time and support personnel required at an emergency incident.
- The current process involves shuttling of air bottles up and down stairwells and recharging at ground level, which requires a greater number of firefighters.
- This proposal would require breathing air systems to be installed in new buildings classified as high-rise buildings in accordance with the International Building Code (75 feet or greater in height), and would also require the system in underground building structures greater than 10,000 sq. ft. if they have more than two floors below grade or more than thirty feet.
- The fill panels would be installed in an approved central location on floors of high rise buildings, in a location other than stairwells.
- Phoenix has a 75 foot requirement with fill panels in all stairwells beginning on the second floor and then every other floor; Glendale has a 75 foot requirement with fill panels in the stairwells; Avondale has a 50 foot requirement with fill panels in all stairwells; and Mesa and Chandler are specifying a 50 foot requirement with fill panels in all stairwells beginning on the third floor. Tempe is proposing 75 feet with fill panels in approved central locations starting on the third floor and every third floor thereafter.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that he was not interested in saving developers money, but rather saving firefighters' lives. He asked whether it would matter where the building was located.

Mr. Scott responded that location wouldn't matter as long as it was 75 feet in height or greater. Staff would like to bring this to City Council on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Chief Carbajal inquired as to whether the system would be available to police. Mr. Scott explained that it would be available to all emergency personnel, including the police.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested use of an emergency clause and he will discuss this with the City Attorney.

**CONSENSUS: Full endorsement of the Committee and staff was directed to proceed to IRS on October 4<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Fire Department Ambulance Service Process**

Fire Chief Jones summarized that Council had directed the Fire Department to study the possibility of ambulance service as a Fire Department operation. Currently, the City contracts

with a single provider for four full-time ambulances, seven days per week, twenty-four hours per day, and one peak-time ambulance. The concept of a fire department-based ambulance service is used in some Arizona municipalities and in some fire districts. It is used effectively, although there are pros and cons.

EMS Transportation Coordinator John Valenzuela reviewed the requirements for an in-house system:

- Two categories of staffing – sworn firefighters or civilians employed by Fire Department
- Advantages of the sworn firefighter model are creation of an additional pool of firefighters for immediate draw, hiring from a more competitive pool, longevity, and greater seamless service.
- Disadvantages of the sworn model would be the possibility of prolonged assignments to the ambulance.
- Advantages of the civilian model would be dedicated transport personnel and a hiring pool for sworn positions.
- Disadvantages of the civilian model would be lack of firefighting capability and potential conflict with two divisions in the station.
- Would need a minimum of 5 vehicles, with 4 full time and 1 peak time, with one for reserve.
- During large special events, there are usually 3 to 5 ambulances on site, so the current model would need to be changed.
- There are currently only two stations that could accommodate ambulances (1 and 6) and the rebuild of Station 2 could accommodate an ambulance. New Station 7 will also be able to accommodate an ambulance.

Debbie Bair provided an overview of the fiscal analysis and impact:

- Would look at the salaries, benefits, operational, cost, startup and capital costs.
- Would also look at outside collection for fees
- Would not include infrastructure at this time for the two fire stations because that would be beyond the scope of the approved CIP.
- Would determine when the break-even point would occur and when revenues would exceed expenditures.

Chief Jones summarized that the advantages of a fire-based system include seamless service delivery, continuity of care, a stronger Fire Department overall, team consistency, decreased engine and ladder company out-of-service time. Disadvantages would include start-up costs, ambulance housing issues and management and operation.

Battalion Chief John Barton summarized that once given the green light, the process would take from six months to a year. Important benchmarks would be:

- The Certificate of Necessity (CON) which would take from six months to a year.
- Hiring and training of the field personnel and support staff of 6 to 9 months
- Ambulance design, construction and delivery would be about 6 months.
- The State has issued 3 CON's for the geographic area which includes Tempe and would probably contest granting the certificate for Tempe. There is a question whether the State Department of Health Services has statutory authority over a municipal ambulance.

Chief Jones summarized that staff is in the process of responding to further Council direction to develop an RFP. Staff will report to Council at the end of October. Staff's report today is not in lieu of the development of an RFP. Staff's recommendation is to keep this concept alive.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if there is legal question about whether the DHS has statutory authority regarding an ambulance service.

Chief Jones responded that it was speculation at this time. They regulate the ambulance companies themselves and they are the primary ones responsible to the Department of Health Services, but at this point, we have to be responsible to the Department of Health Services.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked whether other municipalities with their own ambulance service work with DHS.

Chief Jones responded that they currently have their own CON's. The primary example is the City of Phoenix with city-owned ambulance service for about 25 years.

Councilmember Arredondo asked about progress on the south station.

Chief Jones responded that land acquisition discussions are being held at this point.

Councilmember Arredondo asked staff to provide Council with notification that they are moving forward with this concept. He further asked about manning of a heavy rescue truck.

Chief Jones responded that there is a budget issue concerning staffing for the heavy rescue truck which would have been accompanied by a standard Fire Department pumper. Staff will return to the committee on the next agenda for an update. Councilman Arredondo clarified that the committee could then have a discussion and move it forward to Council.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked what makes the DHS decide they are going to issue only a certain number of certificates and whether that is a statutory requirement.

Chief Jones responded that he would find out the information.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Scudder Park Master Plan**

Mark Richwine presented the Scudder Park Master Plan, which represents over a year of cumulative effort between the City's lead design team, J2 Engineering, the Scudder Park West Neighborhood Association, the Juniper Watson Neighborhood Association and the Lakes Homeowners' Association.

Jeff Englemann, J2 Engineering, summarized the involvement of the neighborhood:

- GAIN event last fall included the first public outreach in Scudder Park.
- Series of public meetings were held and attendees were divided into groups of four and each group participated in a design of the park.
- J2 then developed four concepts based on the public input.
- J2 returned to the public, merged the concepts and gathered further input.
- J2 revised it to the current plan.

- J2 returned to the public with a celebratory unveiling of the master plan. The public then prioritized the amenities. The number one priority was a playground and shade was the second priority.
- Accessibility was important to the public, so a hard surface path is incorporated, with soft surface path surrounding the park.
- Public art elements will be incorporated. The current public art was decommissioned and will be replaced.

Kathleen Clark, Scudder Park Neighborhood Association, added that three associations participated, along with the assistance of Bob Pohlit and Shauna Warner and other staff, and the process has been successful.

Mr. Richwine stated that the next stage will involve construction documents, and then actual construction. Throughout this process, it has been staff's commitment that the neighborhood park master plans would be totally driven by the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Arredondo asked about the surface on the walking paths.

Mr. Englemann responded that a concrete hard surface will be placed around the majority of the playground area and up to the picnic ramadas, but the soft surface trail will be of stabilized decomposed granite with a binding agent. It meets ADA guidelines, but is also good for the walker and jogger. It also has a dust control agent. The playground surface will be sand.

Councilmember Arredondo asked staff to check on incorporation of sprinklers to cool the sand.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked about the shading aspects.

Mr. Englemann responded that shade will be provided by new trees, as well as existing trees. In addition, shade canopies will be placed over areas of the playground.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Kid Zone Enrichment Program Update**

Tom Canasi summarized that Kid Zone has had a significant waiting list and through a lack of staff, they were unable to accommodate those individuals. Last year in September, the enrollment was 1778, with a waiting list of 359. Council expressed a desire to make the resources available through the budget process, and there was a significant budget allocation to address the waiting list. This year, the enrollment has risen to 2245, and the waiting list has dropped to zero. This shows a 26% increase in participation in the program. Staff doesn't believe the program has topped out, and Council's commitment to the program has made a difference.

Councilmember Arredondo added that the program does a great service.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested that staff bring this to IRS for a presentation and further suggested that Nikki Ripley issue a press release.

Councilmember Arredondo directed Shauna Warner to add this to the IRS agenda.

**Agenda Item 5 – Police Department Update on Neighborhood Policing Efforts**

Councilmember Arredondo thanked Police Chief Ryff for the outstanding effort made on behalf of the Svob Park neighborhood. Very positive feedback has been received.

Assistant Police Chief Angel Carbajal summarized that their focus is on service to the neighborhoods.

- The Special Enforcement Motorcycle Squad (SEMS) continues to be effective and productive. Year to date, there have been 225 complaints received and 834 citations issued, with 493 staff hours.
- The Party Patrol has partnered with ASU Police. The patrol was reconvened on August 17<sup>th</sup>, with 146 calls for service, 80 public service notices issued, and 4 arrests.
- ACTION (Attacking Crime Trends in Our Neighborhoods) Team is composed of two teams of four officers with a large presence around ASU. From July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup>, the teams handled 262 arrests for a variety of criminal offenses, with 37 critical calls for service.
- A wrap-up meeting was held today for SVOB Park issues. Feedback has been positive.

**Agenda Item 6 – Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) Event**

Assistant Chief Carbajal announced that an organizational meeting for the Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) event will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Library Program Room. The GAIN event is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Ryff added that earlier this year, Tempe was indicated in the press as #1 in auto theft. Changes have made. In the last six months, there has been a 20% reduction in auto theft, a 22% reduction in robberies, and an overall 19% reduction in violent crimes.

Councilmember Arredondo directed Shauna Warner to piggy-back the Kid Zone update and an update on the reduction in crime at IRS.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested Assistant Chief Carbajal talk to the press regarding resolution of the Svob Park issues. Also, for the organizational meeting for the GAIN event, she had suggested at the Council Summit to include a neighborhood clean-up event in preparation for GAIN night.

Councilmember Arredondo added that there is a trailer with tools that can be used by neighborhoods. We need to find a way so that we can promote this year around.

Assistant Chief Carbajal added that he had spoken with Cmdr. Dorsey who is in charge of the Crime Prevention Unit, and they will try to incorporate that information in upcoming messages for GAIN night. Maybe the people who are having a GAIN party to come together earlier for clean-up and celebrate it later with the GAIN party.

**Agenda Item 7 – Underage Tobacco Use & Smoking Hot Spots**

Assistant Chief Carbajal stated that this is an issue taken very seriously. It is addressed on a complaint basis.

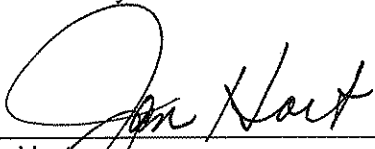
Councilmember Arredondo asked that the officers at the high schools be made aware that when they see students smoking, they are expected to ticket them. This is an education program at the schools and the Police Department should let people know it is not acceptable.

**Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**

- Councilmember Arredondo asked Chief Ryff to explain his table of organization when the Police Department comes to IRS after work with the consultant is completed.
- Councilmember Shekerjian complimented Councilmember Arredondo for his efforts and leadership of this committee.
- Councilmember Arredondo congratulated Tom Canasi on the successful opening of the Tempe Center for the Arts. Everything was great.
- Kate Hanley stated that she has been assigned to a new committee. She thanked Councilmembers Arredondo and Shekerjian for their courage, compassion and commitment to all people. Councilmember Arredondo added that a final decision on the committees has not yet been reached. The Council is in the process of reworking the Council committees and the work plan has not yet been developed for the coming year. With the agenda items today, everything that should have been done this past year will have been completed.

***Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.***

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell  
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner



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Jan Hort  
City Clerk